

# USDA/Rural Development

Bismarck, North Dakota

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS HELP RURAL COMMUNITIES**

Marmarth, June 10, 2003. . . .The town has been using the fire hall to house both the fire trucks and local ambulance. This did not make for a good arrangement especially during the winter months. When an emergency call is received, the two fire trucks needed to be removed from the garage, so the ambulance could be removed and then the fire trucks moved back inside. This situation made for loss of valuable response time. Today during a celebration, local officials are on hand to accept USDA's grant to help construct the new Marmarth Ambulance Garage and Training Center.

Clare Carlson, USDA's Rural Development State Director presented a symbolic check to the town of Marmarth for a Community Facility grant for \$54,450. Total cost of the project is \$134,600 with the remaining funds coming from the community of Marmarth.

The grant is provided through the Community Facility grant program administered through the Rural Housing Service.

"USDA Rural Development is proud to be working with the community of Marmarth to provide funding for this much needed building," said Clare Carlson. "The Marmarth Ambulance Garage and Training Center will be a real asset to the community."

The center will provide not only a garage for the ambulance, but also for training of EMS squads in Montana, South Dakota and Southwestern North Dakota. The building will not only be used for safety training and oil field fire fighters' training, but also for community activities.

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Marmarth is located in the Southwest Rural Economic Area Partnership (REAP) Zone. The Southwest REAP is a regional collaboration of federal, state, and local representatives working to stem the out migration of people and jobs from the region.

"USDA's Community Facilities program helps rural communities keep pace with the needs of our declining populations in rural areas," continued Carlson. "With lesser population and tax basis than urban areas, rural areas rely on programs such as USDA's Community Facilities programs to maintain safe environments and to enhance the quality of life for all rural residents."

In Fiscal Year 2002, USDA Rural Development provided over **\$76 million dollars** in loan and grant n financing to North Dakota citizens.

USDA Rural Development is the lead federal entity for rural economic and community development needs. It administers financial and technical assistance through a network of state Rural Development offices, various non-profit and educational institutional partners, and its national office.

Further information on these and other rural programs is available at a local USDA Rural Development office or by visiting USDA's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/>

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